

# Committee on Resources

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As chairman of the Campbell County Commission, I was asked to appear on Monday, Nov. 24th at the subcommittee hearing on Energy and Minerals that will be held here in Gillette. I am happy to do that.

The following statistics are for the year 2002, which are the latest full year figures available. I do know from conversations with our county assessor that prices and production for the 2003 year will be even better.

The coal industry is the lifeblood of Campbell County. Campbell County coal mines employ 3578 employees. The average earnings per job in the coal industry are \$66,700, which is nearly 2.5 times the state average of \$27,000 per job. It is estimated that each coal-mining job supports 3 related jobs. Roughly 75% of Wyoming's coal is mined in Campbell County.

Largely because of the coal industry, our county enjoys facilities and amenities completely out of the reach of most Wyoming counties. The state of Wyoming benefits tremendously also because of the revenue the coal industry generates. In 2002, state and local government revenue from Wyoming Coal amounted to \$451,202,824. (I hope to have a breakdown on the amount received by Campbell County for Monday. Our assessor was out of town today.)

The Federal government received about 109,000,000 in federal mineral royalties, and 77 million in lease bonus payments for 2002. The federal government also kept about \$98 million in AML fees.

The stability and long-term outlook for coal in the foreseeable future is something Wyoming and Campbell County are banking on. Rising natural gas prices, the low cost of coal, and new "zero-emission" coal-fired power plants means more coal plants will move from planning to construction.

Currently Wyoming supplies 34% of the nation's coal, and coal supplies 50% of total U.S. electrical power. Coal makes a huge contribution to the United States Economy, and especially to our region.

All of Wyoming's coal mines put together disturb about 5000 acres per year. Federal and state laws are strictly enforced to ensure that all disturbed land is reclaimed. Specialists supervise reclamation and ensure that all laws have been enforced. Mined land is reclaimed to its natural state and used for wildlife and agriculture. I have personally observed reclaimed land, and assure you that it is more productive than it was in its natural state.

Because of the short notice,(I was contacted yesterday afternoon) and the fact that this written statement has to be submitted today, I have not been able to assemble everything I wanted to send.

I hope to have some environmental information together by Monday. We have had some dust issues the last 2 years that were ore the result of extended drought than anything else. The coal mines have worked hand in hand, and I should say checkbook in hand, with the county on addressing mitigating the dust situations. This was true even when testing showed that their operations were not the cause of the violation. They have truly been a good neighbor.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on an industry that we are thankful to have. The state and the nation as well are fortunate that the coal industry in our part of the country is viable and active. I look forward to meeting with you on the 24th.